



**BLUEWATER**  
HEALTH  
FOUNDATION

# **SEXUAL ASSAULT & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TREATMENT CENTRE**

**Supporting Survivors in Sarnia-Lambton**



HERE FOR  
**you**



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## Bluewater Health's Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence Treatment Centre is undergoing a major renovation in 2024.

Bluewater Health's Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence Treatment Centre provides a vital space for survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence. Here, they can access safe, timely and supportive care from a specially trained team of doctors and nurses. This team is dedicated to providing comprehensive care for patients who have experienced a recent sexual or domestic assault, 24 hours a day and seven days a week.

The centre sees survivors of domestic violence and intimate partner violence aged 16 and older, as well as sexual assault survivors of all ages. Victims of sex trafficking also utilize the centre. This space provides a range of critical services including forensic support, bodily fluid exposures and miscarriage support.





# Supporting Survivors

This spring, the Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Treatment Centre is undergoing a major renovation and move within the hospital. The centre, which was first established in 1987, is in need of a major refresh, with the goal of creating a tranquil and welcoming space for those accessing services.

Following an assault, it's never easy to come forward. According to Statistics Canada, ***in 2021, there were 127,082 victims of police-reported and 114,132 victims of intimate partner violence across Canada.*** While these numbers are high and continue to increase year over year, we know that many more cases of sexual assault and domestic violence often go unreported.

For the safety and privacy of patients, Bluewater Health offers a safe and discrete space in an unmarked area of the hospital for survivors to access when experiencing a crisis.



# A Safe Space for Survivors

Providing a safe, secure and comfortable space for survivors of sexual assault, abuse and domestic violence is of the utmost importance. It is vital to a survivor's journey.

While the current space has helped hundreds of people over the years, it no longer meets the needs of our community. The revitalized treatment centre will be more spacious and provide a warm and comforting atmosphere.



FALK  
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EXAM ROOM



FALK  
BUILT™

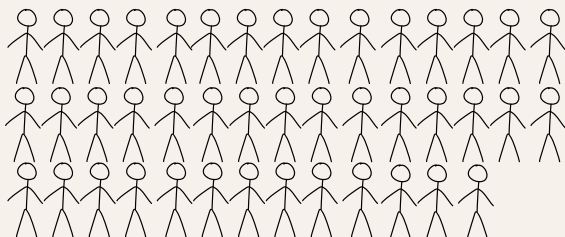
WAITING ROOM

# 2022 – 23

## By the Numbers

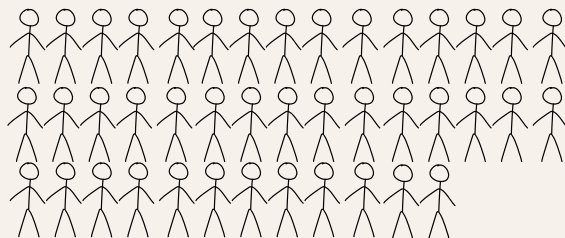
43

patients who were victims  
of domestic violence



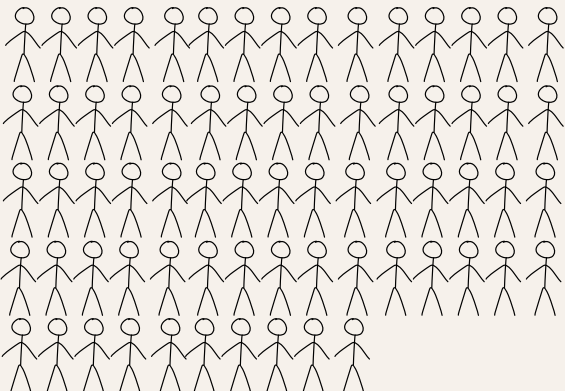
42

patients who were victims  
of sexual assault



70

follow up patients,  
including victims of sex  
trafficking



12

pediatric patients





# Our Local Partnerships

The Centre values their long-standing and strong relationships with many community partners who all work closely together:

- Sarnia Police & OPP
- Women's Interval Home
- Victim Services
- Sexual Assault survivors Centre
- Children's Aid Society
- Family Counselling Centre
- Lambton College



“The Sexual Assault Survivors' Centre Sarnia-Lambton has worked closely with the Sexual Assault & Domestic violence Treatment Centre (SDVTC) at Bluewater Health for many years. This partnership has been crucial in the ongoing support and trauma intervention our clients need. At the very beginning stages of a survivors' journey, they can connect with both of our teams to provide an expeditious, comprehensive, and wrap-around model of support that can ensure a path to healing without judgement. We work closely with this team to ensure individuals don't fall through the gaps that would otherwise be present without it. The SDVTC collaborates with our Centre to ensure our teams are trauma-informed in our approach as well as client centered and educated.

*Chantel Butterfield*

*Executive Director, Sexual Assault Survivors' Centre Sarnia-Lambton*



The Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Treatment Centre at Bluewater Health has been a long-time partner of the Sarnia Police Service. The police service works collaboratively with the nursing staff to support vulnerable members of our community, including survivors of sexual and intimate partner violence. The nurses are an integral part of the police reporting process: they support and encourage victims to come forward, which has had a positive effect when it comes to investigating violent crimes. As well, the nursing staff is a huge asset when it comes to evidence collection for sexual and intimate partner violence cases.

The Sarnia Police Service is grateful for the work the Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Treatment Centre does in assisting victims of violent crimes. On behalf of the police service, we thank the team for their compassion and their assistance in seeking justice for victims.

*Johann Lewis*

*Detective Sergeant, Criminal Investigations Branch, Sarnia Police Service*

The support of our community partners is vital in our work to support survivors of abuse and sexual assault. We thank them for their many years of support.



# Your Support Matters

**In order for the centre to continue providing the highest standard of care, we need your help.**

The transformation of the Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Treatment Centre will require the support and investment of the Sarnia-Lambton community. Bluewater Health Foundation needs to raise \$600,000 to support this critical redevelopment.

One in three Canadian women and one in eight Canadian men will experience sexual violence in the lifetime. It's imperative that Bluewater Health have a safe and accessible space for survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence.

While government funding supports the operation and administration of hospitals, it is donations and community investment that fund important upgrades throughout Bluewater Health, including the move and redevelopment of the sexual assault and domestic violence treatment centre.

By investing in your community, you are giving patients the hope and care they need in their time of crisis.

**Please consider making a donation and see the impact your gift can make**





## To support the Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence Treatment Centre redevelopment, call or email:



(519) 464-4438



kalexander@bluewaterhealth.ca



[www.bwhf.ca](http://www.bwhf.ca)



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